

## About Train 2 Target

**An integrated multidisciplinary approach towards a new generation of antibiotics; Targeting function and cross-talk of bacterial envelope protein machineries.**

Train2Target is a multidisciplinary European Training Network funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action. Eleven research groups from academia and private sector have come together to address the challenge of the discovery of innovative antimicrobials.

Infectious diseases are still among the top 10 causes of death worldwide. The most relevant factor accounting for the high incidence of infectious diseases is the increase and spread of multi drug resistant (MDR) strains, which is leaving clinicians with very limited options to treat infections especially those from Gram-negative pathogens. The bacterial cell envelope is still one of the best targets for antimicrobial discovery. Train2Target is an interdisciplinary project aiming at dissecting the biogenesis of the cell envelope of Gram-negative bacteria, in particular peptidoglycan biosynthesis and outer membrane assembly. The assembly of these structures is carried out by sophisticated molecular machines that function outside the cell and that need to be temporally and spatially orchestrated to ensure proper cell growth and division. The Train2Target project aims at dissecting at the molecular level the function and coordination of core envelope machineries: to this end interdisciplinary approaches based on an array of genetic, biochemical, biophysical and structural biology techniques will be used. Innovative in vivo and in vitro assays will be also developed to find molecules that alter the function and/or imbalance the coordination of envelope machineries thus providing new drugs to be developed as innovative antibiotics.

The consortium consists of partners with excellent scientific qualifications in multiple disciplines. In total there are 15 open ESR positions within Train2Target. During the appointment secondments will be performed at the premises of other partners to ensure multidisciplinary training and close collaborations.

## About AiCuris

Founded in 2006 AiCuris is a specialist for infectious diseases. Its activities comprise discovery, research and development of novel antiviral and **antibacterial agents** in the indications Herpes simplex virus, Hepatitis B and C, Human Cytomegalovirus and **(multi)resistant bacterial infections treated in the hospital**. With its highly innovative pipeline AiCuris addresses specialist markets and severe, potentially life threatening infections with high medical need. A major step for the company was achieved by signing a license agreement with Merck & Co. (MSD).

## About the PhD Position

AiCuris is offering the position of a

### **PhD studentship / Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher (m/f)** **(full-time, 36 month, starting in summer 2017)**

funded by the European Commission under the H2020 Marie Curie actions (no. 721484), offering attractive packages to the best candidates.

#### **Research training project:**

An Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) will be recruited as a **PhD candidate to perform research in antibacterial drug discovery targeting Gram-negative pathogens with the following aims:**

- Identification of novel chemical classes to target key Peptidoglycan (PG) proteins of Gram-negative bacteria
- Development of suitable biochemical target assays for hit evaluation
- Testing of potential hit/ leads in animal models of infections
- Evaluation of further bacterial targets and assays for antibacterial drug discovery

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

Marie Curie eligibility rules require ESRs to have at most four years of research experience, To satisfy Marie Curie mobility criteria, you must not have resided or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the start date (short stays such as holidays and/or compulsory national service are not taken into account).

**Planned secondments:**

Secondments at our partner, the University of Newcastle; length 2 - 3 month per year

Enrollment will be in the PhD program at the University of Newcastle with an academic supervisor at the University of Newcastle, an academic co-supervisor at CNRS, and a supervisor at AiCuris

**Benefits:**

A 36 months contract will be offered under full coverage of the German social security system. Salary and additional benefits are according to EU-standards for Marie Curie ESRs (gross salary approx. € 36,000/ year). Additional benefits are foreseen in case of family allowance.

**Application:**

You have a master degree (M.Sc. or equivalent graduation) in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry or related area, are interested in multi-disciplinary research and a good team-player? Then apply with the following documents and send them in one PDF-file to [jobs@aicuris.com](mailto:jobs@aicuris.com)

1. Personal statement (up to 2 pages) about the applicants' experience, interests and career goals
2. CV with a list of publications and/or projects
3. Evidence, such as a scan of the diploma/master, of having obtained a degree that qualifies the applicant for Ph.D. enrolment
4. Proficiency of English language skills corresponding to at least level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
5. Official transcript of grades obtained during the applicant's bachelor and master studies
6. Names and contact information of at least two academic referees who could write a letter of recommendation

**Please note** that only complete application sets will be considered.

**Application deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Contact details:**

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